REMARKS

Claims 38-53 are pending. Support for these claims is found in the original disclosure as follows: Claim 38 (Claim 8, page 15, last paragraph, Fig. 9), Claims 39-46 (Claims 1-17) and Claims 47-53 (Claim 18, page 6, lines 14-*et seq.*). Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added.

The Applicants thank Examiner Wehbe for the courteous and helpful interview of July 14, 2005. Ways to further distinguish how the treated Nc/Nga mouse of the invention differ from mice having the same genetic background were discussed, as well as ways of claiming the novel functional properties of the treated mice of the present invention. It was suggested that the claims recite particular process steps (e.g., multiple sequential injections of antigen) used to prepare the mice and which would point out how the prepared mice functionally differed from untreated mice. Functional differences such as the ability to develop severe dermatitis in a shorter period of time or the ability to develop lesions sufficiently severe for use in various assays or tests were discussed. These limitations now appear in Claim 38. Favorably consideration and allowance of this application is now respectfully requested.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 29, 30 and 32-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al., J. Derm. Sci. 19:37, Yasue et al., Cell. Immunol. 181:30 and Gad et al., Toxicol. 93:33. These documents do not render the present invention obvious, because they do not suggest or provide a reasonable expectation of success for the NC/Nga mice of the invention which develop at least one symptom of severe dermatitis in a shorter period of time than untreated NC/Nga mice, or develop severe dermatitis lesions by Day 18 as shown in Fig. 9.

As previously discussed, Morita is directed to dermatitis caused by intact, living mites, and does not suggest multiple sequential injections of mite antigen over a period 18 days or less in a pathogen-free environment.

While Yasue describes use of mite antigen to produce dermatitis and Gad describes the application of allergen or irritant to mouse ears, these documents also do not suggest multiple sequential injections of mite antigen over a period 18 days or less in a pathogen-free environment, nor provide a reasonable expectation of success in obtaining treated mice that are suitable for drug testing by Day 18--well before conventional NC/Nga mice are. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection now be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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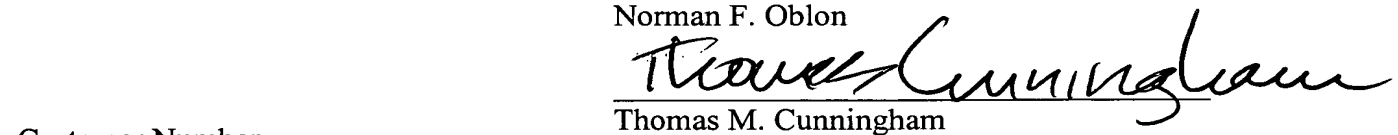
Norman F. Oblon



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